

the seven years famine. Thus he gained the affection of the Egyptians, and even the envy of courtiers was restrained by the general admiration of his virtues.

Potipherah was ruler of On, and supposed to officiate as priest; joining a religious with a regal character in one person. This Prince had a daughter, whose name was Asenath, who was given to Joseph in marriage, by whom he had two sons before the seven years of plenty were ended: these sons were called Manasseh and Ephraim, alluding to the good providences which had attended him, since he left his father's house.

But now the great famine commenced, and the people of the land were starving for want of bread. The dews no longer descended on the earth, and the wasted streams of the Nile, almost discovered the bottom of the channels in which they flowed; the

the scorching sun burnt up the corn, and exhausted the trees of the vineyard of their sap. In this time of general calamity, the inhabitants of the land looked up to Joseph, as children to their father, that they might be fed. And he sold them corn for money; and thus, while he fed the people, enriched the public funds.

How truly honourable it is, for great men to convince their fellow creatures, they are of real service to them in time of necessity! Nor was the usefulness of Joseph confined to the nation in which he lived, for his wisdom, and the provision he had made, was spoken of through all the regions of the East.